

## **FIRST COMMUNITY MEETING FOR FRESHWATER CREEK TMDL**

We thank the residents and stakeholders for attending our first public meeting held on May 29, 2002. During that meeting, Regional Water Board staff discussed the basics of a sediment TMDL and the TMDL process. Matthew Buffleben discussed what is a TMDL, the Regional Water Board's authority and mandate to complete TMDLs, the TMDL process and the components of a TMDL. After a brief break, Holly Lundborg joined Matthew in answering questions from the audience. If you would like to receive a copy of the presentation or minutes of the first meeting, please contact Matthew at the Regional Water Board.

## **SECOND COMMUNITY MEETING FOR FRESHWATER CREEK TMDL**

Our second meeting for the Freshwater TMDL will be held July 30, 2002. Since this meeting will contain information that applies to both Freshwater Creek and Elk River TMDLs, the meetings will be combined for both watersheds during this July community meeting.

### **Freshwater Creek TMDL Update**

Regional Water Board staff will provide updates on the current progress of the TMDL in the Freshwater Creek watershed. This progress includes work on the problem statement, numeric targets for the watershed, and contact with groups that are likely to have information about the watershed.

The problem statement is a description of the watershed setting, beneficial use impairments of concern, and pollutants or stressors causing the impairment

Numeric targets identify measurable indicators and numeric values that can be used to evaluate the TMDL efforts and restoration of water quality in the watershed. Numeric targets are usually divided into two categories, instream and upslope targets, and are not enforceable.

Finally, groups and organizations with potential useful information have been contacted. The list of contacts will also be included in the presentation. If you have knowledge of people or organizations with watershed information, please notify the Regional Water Board staff.

### **Garcia River Implementation Plan**

In addition, in response to interest raised at the first meeting, Lisa Cinti of the Regional Water Board staff will discuss the Garcia River TMDL implementation plan. This presentation will provide insight into implementation measures being required of landowners and how landowners demonstrate their compliance with the Garcia River TMDL. Although the Freshwater Creek TMDL will have a watershed-specific implementation plan, the presentation will provide stakeholders with an overview of the only existing sediment TMDL implementation plan. The audience will have an opportunity to ask questions about the Garcia implementation plan and provide general suggestions regarding the Freshwater Creek and Elk River implementation plans.

## **FRESHWATER CREEK STAKEHOLDER SURVEYS**

Through the TMDL process, Regional Water Board staff will estimate sediment loads, necessary sediment load reductions, and how to achieve those reductions. As knowledgeable residents and stakeholders in the watershed, we seek your assistance. The TMDL process offers an exceptional opportunity for all interested parties to share knowledge, experience, and creative ideas with the goal of restoring healthy watershed conditions in Freshwater Creek.

In an effort to gather your input, we have included a short written survey with this newsletter. We strongly encourage you to answer the questions and to return the completed survey to staff either at our next meeting or via mail. This survey will help Regional Water Board staff in understanding how people have used the watershed, what changes have been observed, what events triggered those changes, and how impairments affect stakeholders, as well as assist in developing a recovery plan.

In the near future, Regional Water Board staff will conduct in-depth interviews of residents with extensive knowledge of the watershed that are unable to convey their information in the included short survey. If you would like to participate in the in-depth interview, please contact the Matthew Buffleben.

## **SEDIMENT TMDL DEVELOPMENT IN FRESHWATER CREEK**

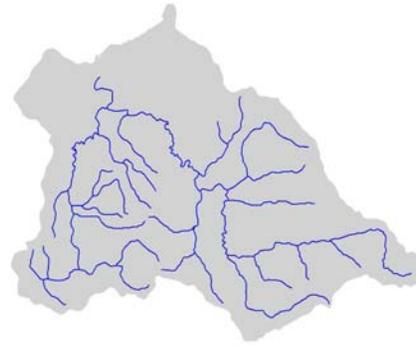
The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have listed the Freshwater Creek watershed under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) as a sediment impaired waterbody. A program has been developed to recover 303(d) List waterbodies via the establishment of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL). At this time, the Regional Water Board is in the process of establishing a TMDL for sediment in the Freshwater Creek watershed. The goal of the TMDL program is to restore the sediment impaired uses of Freshwater Creek and its tributaries.

This is the second in a series of newsletters to keep you informed about the Freshwater Creek TMDL process.

### **WHAT IS A TMDL?**

A TMDL – or **T**otal **M**aximum **D**aily **L**oad – is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant (or load) that a waterbody can receive and still meet protective water quality standards. A sediment TMDL is the sum of the allowable loads of sediment from all contributing natural and land management inputs, with consideration for seasonal variations. The TMDL process provides a framework for assessing the watershed condition, evaluating all sediment sources contributing to water quality problems in the waterbody, and developing a water quality restoration plan for all landuses and ownerships across the watershed.

## **SEDIMENT, WATER QUALITY, AND TMDLs**



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### **FRESHWATER CREEK SEDIMENT TMDL PUBLIC MEETING**

The second in a series of public scoping meetings will be held **July 30, 2002, 7-9 PM** at the **Agricultural Extension Service Building, 5630 S. Broadway in Eureka.**

We encourage all stakeholders to attend this public meeting and talk with Regional Water Board staff working on development of the Freshwater Creek sediment TMDL. We are committed to strong public participation, keeping you aware of progress in the process, and seeking your input throughout the TMDL process.

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### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For information regarding the Freshwater Creek TMDL, please contact:

Matthew Buffleben, Lead staff

Phone: 707-576-2499

Email: [BuffM@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:BuffM@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov)

Or

Holly Lundborg, Senior staff

Phone: 707-576-2609

Email: [LundH@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:LundH@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov)